December 14, 2014

Dear Dr. C,

This was my first semester taking two grad school classes as well as teaching, tutoring, working a second job, having a student teacher, mentoring a new teaching, and being a big sister with the big sister little sister program. I learned that time management is very important to be successful. I struggled finding time to balance everything and remain stress free. I found myself having a negative attitude and not being as positive about new learning as I have been in the past. On the bright side this decreased as the semester went on. I learned the importance of taking time for you (just yourself not your family). Also, how to incorporate my assignments into the responsibilities I already have.

Using technology in the classroom is one of my favorite things to do. I usually enjoy learning about new technologies and I’m excited to bring the items back to my class and start implementing What I loved most about technology was that it typically makes things easier and increases engagement. This semester I became frustrated by the inability to implement the things I was learning in my classroom because of lack of funds or district policy. I was reminded this semester that some things our out of our control and that as a teacher your job will always be challenging and out of your hands. You can only control what happens in your classroom (and sometimes that is limited). This is what concerns me most about teaching and using technology in the classroom. What you can do to overcome this is learn all you can, and wait patiently to implement what you learn or transform new ideas you are learning to fit into the classroom, and constantly have a positive attitude. Remember that even with technology you will constantly need to change, update, and modify to meet the needs of your students. Often the effort that you put into your work will reflect in the students learning and actions and that is what excites me most about teaching. Your hard work does pay off. In the future I will do my best to keep a positive attitude with new technology, polices, etc. instead of becoming bogged down by the system I will look for ways to incorporate the core aspects in a way that I am able to do so.

In making the products for the class I learned that you can always improve something and make something better. Often I was re-creating lessons that I had taught from the past. Now those lessons are better than before and as new technology comes out I can make them even better still. I’m proud of my ability to not be afraid to try new ideas once I learn about them in the classroom.

Lastly, I plan on teaching in the twenty-first century! I will do my best to continue to learn about new technology, take that technology back to my classroom, and help my students to think creatively about problems. I will make a difference in my students lives by believing they can achieve at a higher level, challenging to create and think, and preparing them for the rest of their lives. I will do this by doing my best to use relevant, meaningful technology, by planning lessons that engage and challenge my students, and by continuing to push the boundaries of the use to technology in public education.

I really enjoyed this class and learned from all of the readings, and assignments. Thank you for taking the time to create an inspiring class.

Sincerely,

Melissa Miller